

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-31 in the application. In previous responses, the Applicants amended Claims 1-3, 5, 11, 13, 19, and 21 and cancelled Claims 9, 10, 14-18, and 22-26. In the present response, the Applicants have amended Claims 1-3, 5, 11, 19, 27 and 29-31 without prejudice or disclaimer. New Claims 32-43 are presented for examination. The Applicants respectfully submit that the new claims are novel and nonobvious over the references of record. Support for the amendments and new claims may be found, *e.g.*, at Figure 6 and supporting portions of the Description as filed. Accordingly, Claims 1-8, 11-13, 19-21, and 27-43 are currently pending in the application.

I. Applicant-Initiated Interview

The Examiner and the Applicant's representative Andrew Ralston, Reg. No. 55,560, discussed aspects of the July 17 Office Action in an Applicant-initiated interview conducted on December 11. The discussion focused on proposed amendments in light of the references of record, including U.S. Patent No. 5,933,647 to Aronberg, *et al.*, cited in an Office Action mailed June 27, 2007, but not forming the basis of any rejection in the July 17 Office Action. The amendments presented herein are consistent with the Examiner's recommendations. In a follow-up discussion on December 15, the Examiner indicated that the claims as amended herein overcome the references of record as currently applied. The Applicant is grateful to the Examiner for the courtesies he extended during these discussions.

II. Rejection of Claims 1, 4, 8, 11-12, 19-20 and 27-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 4, 8, 11-12, 19-20 and 27-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,790,796 by Sadowsky. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Applicants respectfully assert that the references of record as applied in the Office Action do not teach at least one of the elements of the independent claims as currently amended. Therefore, Claims 1, 11, 19, 27 and 30 are allowable over the cited references. The remaining claims, depending from allowable base claims, are also allowable. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 1, 4, 8, 11-12, 19-20 and 27-31 issued under § 102(a) and allow issuance thereof.

III. Rejection of Claims 2-3, 5-7, 13, 21 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 5, 13, 21 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sadowsky as applied to Claims 1, 4, 11-12, 19 and 23 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,112,323 to Meizlik, *et al.*; over Sadowsky as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of: U.S. Patent No. 6,986,134 to Foster for Claim 7; U.S. Patent No. 5,838,907 to Hansen for Claim 6; U.S. Patent No. 5,920,725 to Ma, *et al.* for Claim 2; and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0003390 to Canter, *et al.* for Claim 3. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As set forth above, independent Claims 1, 11, 19, 27 and 30 are allowable over the references of record as applied by the Office Action. The remaining claims, depending from allowable base claims, are also allowable. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner

withdraw the rejection of Claims 2-3, 5-7, 13, 21 and 25 issued under § 103(a) and allow issuance thereof.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-8, 11-13, 19-21, and 27-43.

The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, credits or overpayments to Deposit Account 08-2395.

Respectfully submitted,

HITT GAINES, PC

/David H. Hitt/

David H. Hitt
Registration No. 33,182

Dated: December 17, 2008

P.O. Box 832570
Richardson, Texas 75083
(972) 480-8800